

**AMENDMENT**

Please amend the application, without prejudice, without admission, without surrender of subject matter, and without any intention of creating any estoppel as to equivalents, as follows.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Kindly rewrite the claims, without prejudice, without admission, without surrender of subject matter, and without any intention of creating any estoppel as to equivalents, to read as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A frying apparatus comprising:
  - a) a cooking container having a bottom surface and a side wall, the side wall extending upwardly from the bottom surface to a top edge of the side wall, the bottom surface and the side wall defining an interior volume of the container;
  - b) a shield comprising an upper portion and a lower portion, wherein the upper portion comprises a sidewall having an interior surface, a lower edge, and a bottom, said bottom having a ring-shaped traversing hole, an upper surface connected to the lower edge of the side wall, and a lower surface and wherein the lower portion of the shield has a sidewall having an upper edge connected to the lower surface of the bottom.
2. (Previously Presented) The frying apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the bottom of the shield is downwardly slanting.
3. (Previously Presented) The frying apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the bottom of the shield projects from the interior surface of the sidewall of the upper portion of the shield.

4. (Previously Presented) The frying apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the sidewall of the lower portion of the shield is configured to be removably received by the cooking container.
5. (Previously Presented) The frying apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the sidewall of the lower portion of the shield is contiguous with the sidewall of the cooking container.
- 5 6. (Currently Amended) The frying apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a supporting stand.
- 6 7. (Currently Amended) The frying apparatus according to claim 5 6, further comprising a securing means disposed to secure the cooking container to the supporting stand.
- 7 8. (Currently Amended) The frying apparatus according to claim 6 7, wherein the securing means is a plurality of straps.
- 8 9. (Currently Amended) The frying apparatus according to claim 6 7, wherein the securing means has a first end and a second end, said first end and said second end each having a means of attachment.
- 9 10. (Currently Amended) The frying apparatus according to claim 8 9, wherein the means of attachment on first end of supporting strap is removably attached to a first receptacle of the cooking container.
- 10 11. (Currently Amended) The frying apparatus according to claim 8 9, wherein the means of attachment on the first end of supporting strap is removably attached to a first receptacle of the shield.
- 11 12. (Currently Amended) The frying apparatus according to claim 8 9, wherein the means of attachment on the second end of each supporting strap attaches to a receptacle on the supporting stand.

~~12~~ 13. (Currently Amended) The frying apparatus according to claim 1, comprising at least one handle.

~~13~~ 14. (Currently Amended) The frying apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the at least one handle is adapted for manually carrying the container by the handle.

~~14~~ 15. (Currently Amended) The frying apparatus according to claim 13 wherein the at least one handle is attached to the outside of the shield.

~~15~~ 16. (Cancelled) The frying apparatus according to claim 13 wherein the at least one handle is attached to the outside of the cooking container.

~~16~~ 17. (Currently Amended) The frying apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a lid, wherein the lid covers the upper portion of the shield.

~~17~~ 18. (Currently Amended) A frying apparatus comprising:

a) a cooking container having a bottom surface and a side wall, the side wall extending upwardly from the bottom surface to a top edge of the side wall, the bottom surface and the side wall defining an interior volume of the container;

b) a shield comprising an upper portion and a lower portion, wherein the upper portion comprises a sidewall having an interior surface, a lower edge, and a bottom, said bottom having a traversing hole, an upper surface connected to the lower edge of the side wall, and a lower surface and wherein the lower portion of the shield has a side wall having an upper edge connected to the lower surface of the bottom, and wherein the bottom of the shield is downwardly sloping; wherein the sidewall of the lower portion of the shield is configured to be removably received by the cooking container;

c) a supporting stand;

d) a securing means disposed to secure the cooking container to the supporting stand, wherein the securing means is plurality of straps, each strap having a first end and a second end, said first end and said second end each having a means of attachment, and wherein the means of attachment on first end of the securing means is removably attached to a first receptacle of the frying apparatus and the means of attachment on the second end of each supporting strap attaches to a receptacle on the supporting stand; and

e) at least one handle adapted for manually carrying the container by the handle.

~~18~~ 19. (Currently Amended) The frying apparatus according to claim ~~17~~ 18 further comprising a lid, wherein the lid covers the upper portion of the shield.